

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application and it will also show the amendments submitted on July 8, 2005:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a process having activities to achieve desired goals, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer for coordinating the method steps;

mapping the activities, with each activity having a scheduling component and an operational component, based on their time scheduling relative to each other, wherein an activity map will organize activities based on the relative importance of the scheduling component versus the operational component for each activity and the relative importance of scheduling / operation is selected from the group consisting of: 80-100%/0-20%; 65-80%/20-35%; 50%/50%; 20-35%/65-80% and 0-20%/80-100%;

determining at least one scheduling driver, that which affects the start and duration of an activity, of the activities;

measuring the metrics of the at least one scheduling driver;

determining at least one operations driver, that which affects the work done by an activity, of the activities;

measuring the metrics of the at least one operations driver;

evaluating driver metrics metric data accounting for the relative effects of the at least one scheduling driver and the at least one operations driver on the process to determine which

attributes of the drivers and which drivers create a predictive equation for the response of the process; and

controlling the process by using the evaluation of the driver metrics as feedback for controlling the currently selected drivers and to predict and select new drivers, if new drivers can affect the scheduling and performance greater than the currently selected drivers, based the evaluation of the driver metrics, such that the desired goals of the process are achieved.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the scheduling driver is derived by determining what one or more members of the group of attributes, namely what consisting of activities, resources, input entities, output entities or and controls, most significantly affect the scheduling of activities within a process.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein driver metrics are measured by measuring the metrics of the attributes of the driver which are considered to be the selection criteria of the driver.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the operations driver is derived by determining what one or more members of the group of attributes, namely what consisting of activities, resources, input entities, output entities or and controls, most significantly affect the operation metrics of the process.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating driver metrics further comprises

evaluating the driver metrics measured directly as well as evaluating the driver metrics as they relate to the metrics of the overall process.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein controlling the process is done by controlling drivers which directly affect the overall process.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a process of an organization having activities to achieve desired goals, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer for coordinating the method steps;

mapping the activities, with each activity having a scheduling component and an operational component, based on their time scheduling relative to each other, wherein an activity map will organize activities based on the relative importance of the scheduling component versus the operational component for each activity and the relative importance of scheduling / operation is selected from the group consisting of: 80-100%/0-20%; 65-80%/20-35%; 50%/50%; 20-35%/65-80% and 0-20%/80-100%;

~~selecting a process flow which most closely resembles the process from the group consisting of, research, research and development, development, project and operations and maintenance;~~

determining at least one scheduling driver, that which affects the start and duration of an activity, of the activities by determining what entity or entities affect the metrics of the scheduling of the activities by 50% or more;

measuring the metrics, which are time, cost and quality, of the at least one scheduling driver;

determining at least one operations driver, that which affects the work done by an activity, of the activities by determining what resource or resources affect the metrics of the operation of the activities by 50% or more;

measuring the metrics, which are time, cost and quality, of the at least one operations driver;

evaluating driver ~~metrics~~ metric data accounting for the relative effects of the at least one scheduling driver and the at least one operations driver on the process to determine which attributes of the drivers and which drivers create a predictive equation for the response of the process; and

controlling the process by using the evaluation of the driver metrics as feedback for controlling the currently selected drivers, which affect the scheduling or operation of activities by 50% or more and to predict and select new drivers, if new drivers can affect the scheduling and performance greater than the currently selected drivers, based the evaluation of the driver metrics, such that the desired goals of the process are achieved.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein driver metrics are measured by measuring the metrics of the attributes of the driver which are considered to be the selection criteria of the driver.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein evaluating driver metrics further comprises

evaluating the driver metrics measured directly as well as evaluating the driver metrics as they relate to the metrics of the overall process.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein controlling the process is done by controlling drivers which directly affect the overall process.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the process is the dominant process of the organization.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises evaluating the correlation of the scheduling driver and the operations driver of a process to past performance to determine if different attributes of the scheduling driver or the operations drivers should be measured.

13. (Currently Amended) A continuous and automatic data collection system means for continuously evaluating a project over a period of time from T_1 to T_{FINISH} ,

the project is comprised of individual activities or jobs J_N , where $N = 1$ to another integer representing a final activity ¶

data collected is comprised of individual data sets DS_N , where $N = 1$ to another integer representing a final data set ¶

the period of time is comprised of individual units of time T_N , where $N = 1$ to another integer representing a final unit of time ¶

said data collection means comprising:

- a means for sending a signal S_1 for collection DS_1 on J_1 at T_1 ;
- a means for collecting DS_1 on J_1 at T_1 by data entry to a central computer system;
- a means for storing DS_1 or J_1 at T_1 in the central computer system;
- a means for sending a signal S_2 for collecting DS_2 on J_1 at T_2 ;
- a means for collecting DS_2 on J_1 at T_2 by data entry to the central computer system;
- a means for storing DS_2 on J_1 at T_2 in the central computer system;
- a means for repeating the above steps for all J_N from T_1 to T_{FINISH} for project; and
- a means for evaluating the project quantitatively with all DS_N for all J_N at periodic intervals of time to determine which quantitative system attributes create a predictive equation for the response of the process.

14. (Currently Amended) A continuous and automatic data collection method for continuously evaluating a project over a period of time from T_1 to T_{FINISH} , the project is comprised of individual activities or jobs J_N , where $N = 1$ to another integer representing a final activity ¶
- data collected is comprised of individual data sets DS_N , where $N = 1$ to another integer representing a final data set ¶
- the period of time is comprised of individual units of time T_N , where $N = 1$ to another integer representing a final unit of time ¶
- said data collection method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer for coordinating the method steps;

sending a signal S_1 for collection DS_1 on J_1 at T_1 ;
collecting DS_1 on J_1 at T_1 by data entry to a central computer system;
storing DS_1 or J_1 at T_1 in the central computer system;
sending a signal S_2 for collecting DS_2 on J_1 at T_2 ;
collecting DS_2 on J_1 at T_2 by data entry to the central computer system;
storing DS_2 on J_1 at T_2 in the central computer system;
repeating the above steps for all J_N from T_1 to T_{FINISH} for project; and
evaluating the project quantitatively with all DS_N for all J_N at periodic intervals of time.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14 ~~claim 13~~, wherein evaluating the project quantitatively further comprises:

- determining at least one scheduling driver of the activities;
- determining at least one operations driver of the activities;
- evaluating driver ~~metrics~~ metric data accounting for the relative effects of the at least one scheduling driver and the at least one operations driver on the process to determine which attributes of the drivers and which drivers create a predictive equation for the response of the process; and
- controlling the process by using the evaluation of the driver metrics as feedback for
- controlling the currently selected drivers and to predict and select new drivers, if new drivers can affect the scheduling and performance greater than the currently selected drivers, based the evaluation of the driver metrics, such that the desired goals of the process are achieved.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 14, wherein the scheduling driver is derived by determining what one or more members of the group of attributes, namely what consisting of activities, resources, input entities, output entities or and controls, most significantly affect the scheduling of activities within a process.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein driver metrics are measured by measuring the metrics of the attributes of the driver which are considered to be the selection criteria of the driver.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 14, wherein the operations driver is derived by determining what one or more members of the group of attributes, namely what consisting of activities, resources, input entities, output entities or and controls, most significantly affect the operation metrics of the process.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein evaluating driver metrics further comprises evaluating the driver metrics measured directly as well as evaluating the driver metrics as they relate to the metrics of the overall process.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein controlling the process is done by controlling drivers which directly affect the overall process.